

Abstract #14: Poster (Research Study)

Passing Grade for MLT Courses

Institutional policy for what constitutes a passing grade for MLT programs varies across the nation. Some institutions allow programs to set the lowest passing grade at a C and others mandate D. These programs are required to accept D as passing since there is no NAACLS standard for a grade of C. This puts MLT programs at risk of not meeting metrics for certification pass rates, employment rates, and may lead to loss of clinical sites. A Survey Monkey with eight questions was sent September 27, 2018 to 123 NAACLS MLT programs with the goal of identifying a standard of practice and potential development of a NAACLS standard. Survey has a current completion rate of 74/123 (60.2%). Results: 71.62% of programs require students to pass lab: 74.19% with a grade of C and 54.29% of programs can then issue a grade of F. Programs (37.10%) not requiring C in lab required a combined lec/lab grade of C to pass. The lowest C was 70%, highest C+ 75% at 36.49% and 31.08% respectively. A grade of D (70%) was reported as passing by 62.50% (15/24) programs. 64.7% (44/68) commented D was a failing grade. Recommendation to NAACLS for a standard stating students must pass lab to pass course was supported by 75.68% of programs. It appears that the majority of programs are in favor of NAACLS setting a standard for passing lab with a grade of C. At the very least, a standard of practice is being defined. National discussion needed.